

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Dave McGill, Volunteer Fire Chief for Seat Pleasant Fire Department

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Stephenson

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**1.1.5. Approval of February Meeting Minutes**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, February 4, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, February 4, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, February 11, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, February 11, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Tuesday, February 19, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Tuesday, February 19, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, February 25, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, February 25, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS:**

### **2.1. None**

## **3. LEGISLATION**

**3.1. Resolution R-13-15, to amend the Charter Regarding General Obligation on Borrowings.** Resolution R-13-15 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, March 11, 2013. The reading was conducted. It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve Resolution R-13-15. The motion carried.

**FOR:** Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin

**AGAINST:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Ordinance O-13-09 FY2012-2013 Budget Amendment to Approve the Purchase of the iPad;** Ordinance O-13-09 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, March 11, 2013 and the first reading was concluded.

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that he had spoken with Jacqui Battle who is hospitalized in George Washington Hospital.
- Mayor Grant requested for everyone to lift her up in prayer, as well as Councilmember Higgs sister and Councilwoman Stephenson mother.
- Mayor Grant stated that SB1022 was withdrawn since the County has a bill in place.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will forward the bill on to the Council.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will be reviewing the bill and submitted a letter of amendment, if needed to the County bill.
- Mayor Grant has asked the Council to get involved with legislation by sending letters, e-mails or making a telephone call in support of legislation that will benefit the City.
- Mayor Grant stated that there are legislation in place to increase the fees on WSSC, Tax and Gas.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Bond Bill hearing for the Public Works facility was held on Saturday, March 9, 2013.
- Mayor Grant thanked Councilwoman Stephenson, Mr. Ashton and Mr. Thompson for attending the hearing.
- Mayor Grant stated that the acquisition of the property on Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway contract has been returned.
- Mayor Grant stated that the feasibility study will be conducted in 45 days.
- Mayor Grant stated the money will be transferred in 50 days.
- Mayor Grant stated that there will be a Medical Center at Morgan Boulevard.
- Mayor Grant has requested the Council to petition their elected officials to approve the Medical Center.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Community of Distinction is on the agenda for approval. He stated that if the Council approves the request the City will be aired on the Fox Network. This is a part of the branding process.

- Mayor Grant stated that the fee for the segment is \$19,300. He stated it is a pilot program for May/June airing at 6:00am.
- Mayor Grant had requested the Council to vote on behalf of the lobbyist. He stated that we will be moving the Legislative Breakfast up, as bills should be in by October.
- Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know if it is a particular lobbyist group the Mayor is recommending.
- Mayor Grant stated it is the same lobbyist firm, which is Proctor & Associates.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated the acquisition on Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway may require an upgrade in the restroom facilities and new smoke detectors. Councilmember Yeargin stated that is it code compliance concern.
- Mr. Ashton and Mayor Grant stated that the contract requires the renters to have insurance and the building to be in code compliance.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired if the City will be verifying the insurance or following-up.
- Mayor Grant stated that they will need to provide us with the insurance certificate identifying the City as an additional insurer.
- Councilwoman Simms wanted to know if the City needs have insurance.
- Mayor Grant stated that we will need insurance, but it will be covered from the escrow account.

#### **4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:**

- Council President Porter stated his report was on the information stand.

#### **4.3 Dave McGill, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

- Chief McGill stated that he has volunteers in the Fire House doing their best to get a Fire Truck.
- Mayor Grant inquired on the amount that the County provides to the Fire Station.
- Chief McGill stated that they get \$24,000 annually from the County. He stated the money pays for the Fire Truck, which the note is \$28,000.
- Chief McGill stated that the money the City provides held with payment too.
- Chief McGill stated that the station management money is provided by the County, which is \$15,000 annually.
- Mayor Grant stated that the City had agreed to take over the Fire Station after 5 years.

- Chief McGill stated that the \$15,000 is for supplies and the request has not been fulfilled. He stated that the storage request is a blind budget and they never see the budget.
- Chief McGill stated that they use the money to buy food and uniforms for the Volunteer Fire Fighters.
- Chief McGill stated that they have prepared a letter with the elected officials contact information for the Mayor and City Council to call and send e-mails regarding the Fire Station.
- Chief McGill stated that the ambulance ran over 4000 calls last year with each call running about 3 hours and that's about 33 hours.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that he heard the Fire Chief on the radio discussing the station that is 3.25 miles away.
- Councilmember Raynor stated he wanted to know how many of the stations are open.
- Chief McGill stated they are all open, but they cannot handle the volume. If they could handle the volume of calls, the Volunteer Department would not be running the number of calls each year.
- Councilwoman Simms stated they are trying to push the volunteer Fire Fighters away.
- Councilwoman Simms inquired if the payments will cease in two years after the station is built.
- Chief McGill stated that it is the plan for them to cease the payments in that timeframe.
- Councilmember Yeargin asked Chief McGill to provide the Council with the history of the closing of the Larchmont Station.
- Chief McGill stated the station had purchased two fire trucks and could not afford the payments.

#### **4.4. Acting City Administrator – Robert L. Ashton**

- Mr. Ashton stated the State Highway Administration will be sending the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by March 27, 2013.
- Mr. Ashton asked the City Council to push the beautification program. He stated that the applications are due on April 1, 2013.

#### **4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the Tax Certificate property on Martin Luther King Jr., Highway will increase the City's acreage.
- Councilman Yeargin stated that he looked at the sign and it appears to be on the Maryland side.

#### **4.6. Police Department – Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police**

- Chief Cotillo stated that the police department handled 463 calls in February with twenty-one arrests and four warrant served.
- Chief Cotillo stated the police department issued 328 traffic citations.
- Chief Cotillo stated that department attended the Town Hall meeting, 202 Coalition meeting and the Public Safety Roundtable event.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the department participated in several joint agency enforcement actions with the JAG and the State's Attorney Office to enforce quality of life issues and safety concerns within the City.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the departmental personnel was trained on E-Tix an automated traffic citation system and is now issuing traffic citations utilizing an automated system.
- Council President Porter inquired on the Speed Camera on Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway.
- Chief Cotillo stated that they placed the cameras together to get the traffic in both directions.
- Councilmember Higgs wanted to know if the cameras were operational on Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway and when will the cameras be moved again.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the cameras are operational and he will contact the contractor regarding the next location of the cameras.
- Councilmember Raynor wanted to know the plans regarding the concerns on corner of Joplin and Birchleaf.
- Chief Cotillo stated that Councilwoman Toles passed a loitering legislation, which states you can give them a written citation for 30 days and if they are seen again within that time frame they will be arrested.
- Councilmember Raynor wanted to know if it was Seat Pleasant Officers doing the raiding on Birchleaf.
- Chief Cotillo stated that he will inquire with Major Nader on the raid, as the Seat Pleasant Police Department does not have the resources to conduct a raid.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she has concerns on Greig Street.
- Chief Cotillo advised Councilwoman Stephenson to call in the concern.
- Councilman Raynor inquired on the stop sign light.
- Chief Cotillo stated that it will need to be passed by the County, but he could have an officer sit there.



- Mayor Grant asked Mr. Ashton how many times had the Police Department received raises since he has been Mayor.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the Police Department has received raises five times from 2004 to present.
- Mayor Grant stated that the City has provided the Department with raises and vehicles over the years and they continue to make request.

**4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson was not present during the Public Session, but the monthly report was submitted in writing.

**5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Johnny Coleman, Upper Marlboro, MD-**

- Mr. Coleman stated that he will be having the Easter egg hunt in parks in the City this coming Easter.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**6.1 Approval of Lobbyist**

Mr. Ashton stated that the lobbyist RFP was advertised on E-Market, but he could not remember the exact dates.

Councilwoman Simms inquired on the dates of the advertisement for the lobbyist.

Councilwoman Simms stated that this has come up before in several meetings and Mr. Ashton never provided any information on the advertisement.

Council President Porter asked Mr. Ashton if he could recall the month it was advertised.

Mr. Ashton stated that he believes it was between December and March

Councilmember Yeargin requested the previous reports on the lobbyist company.

Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know the monthly cost and the term of the contract.

Mr. Ashton stated that the cost will be \$2,500 per month and the contract term will be for three months.

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the lobbyist for the City of Seat Pleasant. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the lobbyist firm as GS Proctor & Associates. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Porter, Raynor and Yeargin

AGAINST: Simms and Stephenson

ABSTAIN: Kennedy

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the lobbyist firm of GS Proctor & Associates to be paid from the Economic Development Department budget line. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Porter, Raynor and Yeargin

AGAINST: Simms and Stephenson

ABSTAIN: Kennedy

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1. Approval of Community of Distinction**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and second by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the Community of Distinction to be deducted from the Economic Development Budget. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

8.1. National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, 2660 Woodley Rd., NW, Washington, DC, March 9-13, 2013

8.2. Prince George's County 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beautification Awards Program, Spring Garden Application due by 04/01/13 and Summer Garden Application due by 05/20/13.

**9. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned at 9:01p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk